

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: L. Nguyen
Satoru WAKAO et al.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2622
Appln. No.: 09/987,832)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 7584
Filed: November 16, 2001)	
	:	Allowed: January 9, 2009
For: IMAGE DATA VERIFICATION)	
SYSTEM	:	April 8, 2009

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants note that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance indicates that, regarding Claims 1, 13, 27, and 32, the prior art fails to show or suggest an image verification system comprising an image generation [device] and a first image verification device, wherein said first image verification device includes a second verification data generation unit which generates second verification data from the image data using a private key in public key cryptography without editing the image data, if the first verification unit verifies that the image data is not altered.

Applicants wish to point out that Claims 27 and 32 (and the claims depending therefrom) do not recite an image generation device. Claim 27 is, however, directed to an image verification device that includes, *inter alia*, a verification data generation unit which generates second verification data from the image data using a private key in public key cryptography without editing the image data, if said verification unit verifies that the image data is not altered.” Claim 32 is a method claim that includes a generating step that generally corresponds to the verification data generation unit of Claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 27 and 32 are distinguishable over the prior art of record, even though those claims do not include an image generation device.

Applicants’ undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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